

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /060 W
-----057265 121418Z /44
R 120955Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6066

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM TH
SUBJECT: THAI PRESS REPORTS SENI PRAMOT'S STATEMENT ON "THAMMASAT
18"

REF: BANGKOK 20100

1. ON SEPT 8 FORMER PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOT ISSUED
PUBLIC STATEMENT EXPLAINING HIS GOVERNMENT'S ORDERS TO POLICE
AUTHORITIES PRIOR TO THE OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE AT THAMMASAT
UNIVERSITY LAST OCT 6. THE STATEMENT, WHICH WAS ENDORSED BY
EX-DEMOCRAT PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL DAMRONG LATTHAPHIPHAT,
IS MILDLY CRITICAL OF A RECENT GOVERNMENT STATEMENT WHICH
GAVE THE RTG'S VERSION OF THE SENI GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE ARREST
OF THE OCT 6 DETAINEES (SEE REFTEL FOR DETAILS).

2. THE SENI STATEMENT, WHICH PUBLICLY CONTRADICTS THE
POSITION TAKEN BY THE THANIN CABINET, WAS REPORTED IN DETAIL
ON SEPT 9 BY THAI LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS INCLUDING, SIANG PUANG
CHON, SIAM RATH AND DAILY NEWS. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT
SPONSORED PAPER, CHAO PHRAYA, FAILED TO MENTION THE STATEMENT.

3. THE BANGKOK POST, WHICH IS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF
THE GOVERNMENT, CARRIED A REPORT ON SEPT 11 WHICH
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QUOTED SENI AS SAYING IT IS NOT RPT NOT IMPROPER
FOR A MILITARY COURT TO HAVE JURISDICTION IN THE CASE
OF THE "THAMMASAT 18", BECAUSE MARTIAL LAW WAS IN EFFECT
WHEN THE GOVERNMENT BROUGHT CHARGES AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS.

COMMENT: THE STATEMENT ABOVE IS INDICATIVE OF SENI'S
ATTEMPT PUBLICLY TO DOWNPLAY HIS ROLE IN THE CASE

AGAINST THE OCT 6 DEFENDANTS, WHILE NOT RPT NOT TAKING
EXCEPTION TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S RIGHT TO TRY THE
"THAMMASAT 18" UNDER MILITARY COURT PROCEDURES.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO20216
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770329-1041
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI PRESS REPORTS SENI PRAMOT'S STATEMENT ON \"THAMMASAT 18\"
TAGS: SHUM, TH
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